

CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Currently amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup element having a first surface and a second surface opposite to the first surface, said image pickup element having an image region formed in the first surface, such that a surface of the image region is in the same plane as the first surface;

an optical system that causes image light from a subject to form an image on the image region, the image region converting the image into an electrical signal; and

a supporting member that engages said image pickup element and said optical system, said supporting member having a first abutment portion that directly abuts said optical system and a second abutment portion that directly abuts said first surface of said image pickup element.

2. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second abutment portion abuts an area on the first surface except for the image region.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1,~~

An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup element having a first surface and a second surface opposite to the first surface, said image pickup element having an image region formed in the first surface;

an optical system that causes image light from a subject to form an image on the image region;

a supporting member that engages said image pickup element and said optical system, said supporting member having a first abutment portion on an upper surface that directly abuts said optical system and a second abutment portion formed on a lower surface that directly abuts said image pickup element, the upper surface and lower surface of the supporting member being opposite to one another; and

~~further comprising~~ a first holding member that engages said optical system and said supporting member such that said optical system is sandwiched between the first holding member and said supporting member.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising~~

An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup element having a first surface and a second surface opposite to the first surface, said image pickup element having an image region formed in the first surface;

an optical system that causes image light from a subject to

form an image on the image region;

a supporting member that engages said image pickup element and said optical system, said supporting member having a first abutment portion that directly abuts said optical system and a second abutment portion that directly abuts said image pickup element;

a first holding member that engages said optical system and said supporting member such that said optical system is sandwiched between the first holding member and said supporting member; and

a circuit board ~~;~~ ~~wherein said circuit board is~~ being fixed to said supporting member and electrically connected to said image pickup element, said circuit board having an opening formed therein such that said image region is exposed through the opening.

5. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the second abutment portion is a projection that extends through the opening.

6. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising a second holding member that engages the second surface and said supporting member such that said image pickup element is sandwiched between the second holding member and said supporting member.

7. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 4,

wherein said supporting member, circuit board, and image pickup element are bonded together by an adhesive that is applied to said supporting member, circuit board, and image pickup element except for the second abutment portion and the area on the first surface that abuts the second abutment portion.

8. (Original) The image pickup apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the adhesive is a UV-curing type adhesive.

9. (New) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

an image pickup element having a first surface and a second surface opposite to the first surface, said image pickup element having an image region formed in the first surface;

an optical system that causes image light from a subject to form an image on the image region;

a supporting member that engages said image pickup element and said optical system, said supporting member having a first abutment portion on an upper surface that directly abuts said optical system and a second abutment portion formed on a lower surface that directly abuts said image pickup element, the upper surface and lower surface of the supporting member being opposite to one another; and

a first holding member that engages said optical system and said supporting member such that said optical system and said

supporting member are sandwiched between the first holding member and the image pickup element.